

Chapter 1

Importance of Democracy in the Contemporary World

- Democracy is the most prevalent form of government in the world today and it is expanding to more countries. It is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people. Let us consider the features of democracy with the help of some examples—

(a) In Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf led a military coup in October 1999. He overthrew the democratically elected government and declared himself the President in 2002 through a referendum. He then issued a “Legal Framework Order”, through which the President can dismiss the national or provincial assemblies and the work of the civilian cabinet is supervised by a National Security Council which is dominated by military officers. Pakistan, now had elections at national and state assemblies but the final power rested with the military officers and General Musharraf himself. Clearly, this should not be called a democracy, but a form of dictatorship. Thus, in a democracy, the final decision making power must rest with those elected by the people.

(b) Mexico got independence in 1930, since then elections were held after every six years to elect President. But until 2000 every election was won by a party called PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party). Opposition parties did contest elections but never managed to win. The PRI used many dirty tricks and forced the government officials to vote for them. People seemed to have a choice but in practice they had no choice.

In China, the elections do not offer any serious choice to the people. They have to choose the ruling party i.e. – The National People's Congress and the candidates approved by it. So, these are not fair elections. The elections must offer a real choice between political alternatives. Thus, a democracy must be based on a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing.

(c) The struggle for democracy has always been linked to the demand for Universal Adult Franchise, which is being now accepted almost all over the world. Yet there are many instances of denial of equal right to vote. In Saudi Arabia, women do not have the right to vote. In Estonia people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote. In Fiji, the vote of an indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian Fiji. Democracy is based on a fundamental principle of political equality. In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.

(d) Zimbabwe attained independence from white minority rule in 1980. Since then the country has been ruled by ZANU-PF the party that led the freedom struggle and its leader Robert Mugabe, who himself is the President of

the country. He is popular but uses unfair practices in elections. He has increased his powers by amendments that make him less accountable. Opposition party, public protests and demonstrations are all suppressed. Press, media, and court give only the ruling party's version. This shows that popular governments can be undemocratic and autocratic. This requires that the state should respect some basic rights of the citizens. They should be free to think, to have opinions, to express their view in public, to form associations to protest and take other political actions. Everyone should be equal in the eyes of the law. These rights must be protected by an independent judiciary, whose orders are everyone obey. Thus, a democratic government rules within limits set by the constitutional law and citizen's rights.

• Arguments against democracy :

- Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.
- Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope of morality.
- A number of people have to be consulted in a democracy that leads to delay.
- Elected leaders are not aware of the best interest of the people. It leads to unsuitable decisions.
- Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.
- Ordinary people are unaware about good; or bad, they should not decide anything.

• Arguments for democracy :

- A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.
- Democracy improves the quality of decision making.
- Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.
- Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.
- Democracy is better than other forms of government because it allows us to correct our mistakes.

• Restoration of democracy :

(A) **Chile** : Salvador Allende was the President of Chile, whose government was overthrown by a military coup through conspiracy and violence on 11th September 1973. General Augusto Pinochet, an Army General led the coup. He became the President of the country and ruled it for next 17 years by establishing military dictatorship. Pinochet's government tortured and killed several of those who wanted democracy to be restored. These included General Alberto Bachelet of the Chilean Air Force, his family and many other officers who refused to join the coup. Pinochet's military dictatorship came to an end after he

decided to hold a referendum in 1988 where he lost all his powers. The elected governments came to power and Michelle Bachelet was elected the President of Chile in January 2006.

(B) Poland : During the 1980s, Poland was ruled by the Polish United Worker's Party, which was supported and controlled by the government of the Soviet Union. On 14th August 1980, the workers of Lenin Shipyard, in the city of Gdansk, went on a strike. This strike was illegal because the trade unions, independent of the ruling party, were not allowed in Poland. As the strike continued, a former electrician of the Shipyard Lech Walesa joined the strike and became the leader of the movement. Now the workers wanted the right to form trade unions, demanded the release of political prisoners and an end to censorship of press. The workers, led by Walesa, signed a 21-point agreement with the government that ended their strike. A new trade union called solidarity, was formed that swept across Poland and had about one crore members. Revelations of widespread corruption and mismanagement in the government made matters worse for the government led by General Jaruzelski. He imposed martial law in December 1981 and tried to suppress it. But again in 1988, when Polish government grew weaker, Walesa made an agreement in April 1989 for free elections. Solidarity contested elections in October 1990 and Walesa was elected the President of Poland.

• **End of colonialism :**

For a very long time, most countries in Asia and Africa were colonies under the control of European nations. Many of these countries became democracies immediately after the end of the second World War in 1945. India achieved independence in 1947 and embarked on its journey to transform itself from a subject country to a democracy. Ghana used to be a British colony named Gold Coast. It became independent in 1957, after the freedom struggle led by Kwame Nkrumah. Soviet

Union broke down in 1991. It comprised of 15 Republics. All the constituent Republics emerged as independent countries. Pakistan and Bangladesh made a transition from army rule to democracy in 1990s. In Nepal, the King gave up many of his powers to become a constitutional monarch to be guided by elected leaders. By 2005, about 140 countries were holding multi-party elections.

- **International Organisations :** The United Nations (UN) is a global association of nations of the world to help co-operation in international law, security, economic development and social equity. The UN Secretary General is its chief administrative officer.

The UN General Assembly is like the parliament where all the discussions take place. Each of the 192 member countries of the UN has one vote in it. It meets yearly, under a president elected from among the representatives of the member countries.

The UN Security Council is responsible for maintaining peace and security among countries. The fifteen member countries of the Security Council takes crucial decisions of which there are five permanent members – US, Russia, UK, France and China. Ten other members are elected by the General Assembly for a two year terms. Each permanent member has veto power. It means that the Council cannot take a decision if any permanent member says no to that decision. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank give financial aids and loans to the needy countries.

Conclusion : A democratic decision involves consultation with and consent of all those who are affected by that decision. Those who are not powerful have the same say in taking the decision as those who are powerful. This can apply to a government or a family or any other organisation. Thus, democracy depends on active political participation by all the citizens. That is why a study of democracy must focus on democratic politics.

Exercise

1

DIRECTIONS : This section contains multiple choice questions. Each question has 4 choices (1), (2), (3) and (4), out of which only one is correct. Choose the correct option.

- In which of the following countries democracy does exist?
 - China
 - Brazil
 - Egypt
 - Algeria
- In which of the following countries democracy does not exist?
 - Myanmar
 - Australia
 - South Africa
 - India
- A military coup took place in Chile on 11th September in the year _____.
 - 1975
 - 1977
 - 1973
 - 1971
- Pinochet's rule was a form of _____ in Chile.
 - Democracy
 - Monarchy
 - Single party rule
 - Dictatorship
- When was the referendum held in Chile to mark the end of Pinochet's military dictatorship?
 - 1986
 - 1988
 - 1984
 - 1980
- In which country General Jaruzelski was leading the government?
 - Soviet Union
 - Sweden
 - Poland
 - Hungary
- The United States of America adopted a democratic constitution in _____.
 - 1785
 - 1788
 - 1786
 - 1787
- Name the first country to have granted the right of 'Universal Adult Franchise'.
 - India
 - Britain
 - New Zealand
 - Australia
- In which year did South Africa grant the right of 'Universal Adult Franchise'?
 - 1993
 - 1994
 - 1994
 - 1996

10. Soviet Union broke down in the year
(1) 1991 (2) 1995
(3) 1990 (4) 1993
11. How many member states are there in the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?
(1) 180 (2) 184
(3) 186 (4) 185
12. The President of the World Bank has always been a citizen of _____.
(1) the UK (2) Germany
(3) the US (4) Canada
13. Which of the following does not lead to the spread of democracy?
(1) End of colonialism
(2) Struggle by the people
(3) Invasion by foreign countries
(4) People's movement to achieve freedom
14. In which country did Robert Mugabe lead the freedom struggle from White Minority?
(1) Egypt (2) South Africa
(3) Kenya (4) Zimbabwe
15. In which of the following countries do the citizenship rules deny the Russian minorities the right to vote?
(1) Ukraine (2) Latvia
(3) Estonia (4) Mongolia
16. Democracy is based on a fundamental principal of political _____.
(1) Secularity (2) Liberty
(3) Fraternity (4) Equality
17. The worst recorded famine occurred in China in the year _____.
(1) 1959-62 (2) 1957-63
(3) 1958-61 (4) 1958-62
18. Democracy enhances the dignity of _____.
(1) Leaders (2) Citizens
(3) Politicians (4) Students
19. General Pervez Musharraf issued a "legal framework order" to amend the constitution of Pakistan in the year _____.
(1) 2002 (2) 2001
(3) 2003 (4) 2004
20. Which of the following countries do not have the voting power in the IMF?
(1) Australia (2) Germany
(3) Italy (4) Japan
21. In which of the following countries was the democracy as not overthrown by a military coup?
(1) Pakistan (2) Zimbabwe
(3) Nepal (4) Myanmar
22. In which of these countries do we find the denial of equal Right to Vote?
(1) India (2) U.S.A.
(3) Fiji (4) New Zealand
23. Which of the following is not the feature of democracy?
(1) The state should respect the basic rights of the citizens.
(2) Media and press should only follow the ruling political party.
(3) Everyone should be equal in the eyes of the law.
(4) Citizens should be free to think and to have opinions.
24. Which of the following arguments does not favour democracy?
(1) Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.
(2) Democracy improves the quality of decision-making.
(3) Democracy is better and more accountable than any other form of government.
(4) Democracy is all about political competition and pioneer play.
25. Which country was granted 'the Universal Adult Franchise' in 1950?
(1) France (2) Japan
(3) India (4) Spain
26. Ghana used to be a _____ colony named Gold Coast.
(1) French (2) Dutch
(3) British (4) Belgian
27. After the Gdansk agreement was signed, a new trade union called _____ was formed in Poland.
(1) Secularity (2) Solemnity
(3) Solidarity (4) Sovereignty
28. In October 1900, Poland freed itself from the shackles of _____.
(1) Monarchy (2) Dictatorship
(3) Communist Rule (4) Anarchy
29. Who cannot exercise the veto power in the Security Council of the UN?
(1) Japan (2) China
(3) France (4) Russia
30. Colony is a territory under the immediate _____ control of another state.
(1) economic (2) social
(3) foreign (4) political
31. Martial law is a system of rules that takes effect when a military authority takes control of the normal administration of _____.
(1) law and order (2) army
(3) justice (4) state
32. A veto gives unlimited power to stop a decision, but not to _____.
(1) approve (2) reject
(3) forbid (4) adopt
33. Which of the following statements is true about today's world?
(1) There are no military dictators in the world.
(2) Monarchy has vanished.
(3) Countries are democratically strengthening their relationships.
(4) In more countries rulers are being elected by the people.
34. Second World War ended in _____.
(1) 1939 (2) 1942
(3) 1945 (4) 1947
35. The government in _____ was supported and controlled by Soviet Union (USSR).
(1) Denmark (2) Sweden
(3) Holland (4) Poland
36. The government of the United States of America supported and funded the activities of _____.
(1) Allende (2) Bachelet
(3) Pinochet (4) Walesa
37. Which of the following features is false about Solidarity?
(1) It emerged as a single party monopoly in Poland.
(2) First independent trade union in a communist state.
(3) Revealed corruptions in the government.
(4) Thousands of its members were put in prison.

38. Which of these Presidents was once a political prisoner?
 (1) Kwame Nkrumah (2) Salvador Allende
 (3) Pervez Musharraf (4) Michelle Bachelet
39. Which neighbouring country of India was granted the Universal Adult Franchise in 1931?
 (1) Pakistan (2) Sri Lanka
 (3) Nepal (4) Bangladesh
40. Which of the following is not the feature of democracy?
 (1) More than one party exists.
 (2) People have the Right to Vote and elect their leader.
 (3) People have the freedom to express views.
 (4) Criticism of the government is not allowed.
41. In which year did Pakistan and Bangladesh made a transition from army rule to democracy?
 (1) 1990 (2) 1988
 (3) 1992 (4) 1985
42. Democracy should be assessed by looking at the _____.
 (1) media (2) court
 (3) citizens (4) elections
43. Use one of the following statements to complete the sentence.
 A democratic government is a better government because it is a more _____.
 (1) economical form of government
 (2) social form of government
 (3) political form of government
 (4) accountable form of government
44. Which of these is not a valid reason for arguing that there is a lesser possibility of famine in a democratic country?
 (1) People are ignorant and practise any religion.
 (2) Opposition parties draw attention to hunger and starvation.
 (3) Free press can report about the scarcity of food grains.
 (4) Government fears its defeat in the next elections.
45. In which of these countries is the election system truly based on the democratic principles.
 (1) China (2) India
 (3) Mexico (4) Pakistan
46. Saddam Hussein became the President of Iraq in _____ and ran a _____ government.
 (1) 1979, democratic (2) 1977, dictatorial
 (3) 1978, monarchial (4) 1979, dictatorial
47. Who was the UN Secretary General during US war on Iraq?
 (1) Kofi Annan (2) Ban-Ki-moon
 (3) Condoleezza Rice (4) Paul Wolfowitz
48. The National League for democracy is a political party of _____.
 (1) Thailand (2) Malaysia
 (3) Indonesia (4) Myanmar
49. Democratic rule ended in Myanmar in the year _____.
 (1) 1963 (2) 1964
 (3) 1962 (4) 1961
50. Which European country was granted the Universal Adult Franchise in 1944 ?
 (1) France (2) Germany
 (3) Spain (4) Britain
51. Which Asian country was granted the Universal Adult Franchise in 1955?
 (1) Japan (2) India
 (3) Sri Lanka (4) Malaysia
52. Which country contributes most of the money needed for the maintenance of the UN?
 (1) UK (2) Russia
 (3) China (4) USA
53. Mark the relevant feature of democracy with respect to the given statement:-
 "The king of Nepal imposed a ban on political gatherings, demonstrations and rallies."
 (1) One person, one vote, one value
 (2) free and fair electoral competition
 (3) rule of law
 (4) respect for rights
54. Which of these countries have never been under communism?
 (1) Iraq (2) Poland
 (3) Russia (4) China

Exercise

2

Matching Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1 to 4) : Match Column-I with Column-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the columns.

- 1.
- | Column I
(Personalities) | Column II
(Country) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| A. Salvador Allende | (p) Ghana |
| B. Vech Walesa | (q) Myanmar |
| C. Kwame Nkrumah | (r) Poland |
| D. Aung San Suu Kyi | (s) Chile |
- (1) A – (q), B – (s), C – (p), D – (r)
 (2) A – (s), B – (r), C – (p), D – (q)
 (3) A – (p), B – (s), C – (r), D – (q)
 (4) A – (r), B – (q), C – (s), D – (p)

2. Match the following:-

- | Column I
(Political Party) | Column II
(Country) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| A. National People's Congress | (p) Zimbabwe |
| B. Ba'ath Party | (q) Mexico |
| C. Institutional Revolutionary Party | (r) Iraq |
| D. ZANU-PF | (s) China |
- (1) A – (p), B – (q), C – (r), D – (s)
 (2) A – (q), B – (p), C – (s), D – (r)
 (3) A – (r), B – (s), C – (p), D – (q)
 (4) A – (s), B – (r), C – (q), D – (p)

3. Match the following:-

Column I (Country)	Column II (Path to Democracy)
A. Poland	(p) Freedom from British Colonial rule
B. Nepal	(q) End of military dictatorship
C. Ghana	(r) End of one party rule
D. Chile	(s) King agreed to give up his powers
(1) A – (iii), B – (iv), C – (i), D – (ii)	
(2) A – (iv), B – (iii), C – (ii), D – (i)	
(3) A – (i), B – (ii), C – (iii), D – (iv)	
(4) A – (ii), B – (i), C – (iv), D – (iii)	

4. Match the following:-
- | Column I
(Country) | Column II
(Year) |
|--|---------------------|
| A. Germany | (p) 1978 |
| B. France | (q) 1944 |
| C. Greece | (r) 1952 |
| D. Spain | (s) 1918 |
| (1) A – (s), B – (q), C – (r), D – (p) | |
| (2) A – (q), B – (p), C – (r), D – (s) | |
| (3) A – (r), B – (s), C – (p), D – (q) | |
| (4) A – (p), B – (r), C – (s), D – (q) | |

Statement Based MCQ

5. Consider the following statements:-
- In Myanmar, the National League for Democracy led by Aung San Suu Kyi won the election in 1990 and put an end to the military rule.
 - In Chile, Michelle Bachelet was elected President in 2006 and restored democracy in her country.
 - In 1980, Lech Walesa was elected the President of Poland.
 - Ghana became independent in 1957, led by the freedom struggle of Kwame Nkrumah.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (1) (a), (b) and (c) (2) (a) and (b)
- (3) (b) and (d) (4) (a) and (c)

6. Consider the following statements:-

- In Nepal, the King gave up many of his powers to become a constitutional monarch to be guided by the elected leaders.
- In 2003, the new King of Nepal dismissed the elected government and took back political freedom.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (1) (a) only (2) (b) only
- (3) Both (a) and (b) (4) Neither (a) nor (b)

7. With reference to democracy, consider the following statements:

- In a democracy, only leaders elected by people should rule the country.
- People have the freedom to express views, freedom to organise and freedom to protest.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (1) (a) only (2) (b) only
- (3) Both (a) and (b) (4) Neither (a) nor (b)

Passage Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 8 to 14) : Read the passage(s) given below and answer the questions that follow.

PASSAGE-1

The United Nations (UN) is a global association of nations of the world to help cooperation in international law, security, economic development and social equity. The UN Secretary General is its chief administrative officer. The UN General Assembly is like the parliament where all the discussion takes place. The UN Security Council is responsible for maintaining peace and security among countries. It can put together an international army and take action against the wrong doer.

- How many countries are permanent members of the UN Security Council?
 - (1) three (2) five
 - (3) four (4) six
- Which of the following country is a permanent member of the Security Council?
 - (1) Germany (2) India
 - (3) Japan (4) France
- Which of the following country cannot exercise the veto power?
 - (1) India (2) China
 - (3) France (4) Russia
- For how many year terms are the ten other members of the UN Security Council elected by the General Assembly?
 - (1) four (2) one
 - (3) three (4) two

PASSAGE-2

Zimbabwe attained independence from the White Minority Rule in 1980. Robert Mugabe and his party ZANU-PF, that led the freedom struggle has been ruling the country since independence. Elections have been held regularly and are always won by the ZANU-PF. President Mugabe is popular but also uses unfair practices in the elections. His government has changed the constitution several times to increase his powers and make him less accountable. Opposition party workers are harassed and their meeting is disrupted. Public protests and demonstrations against the government are declared illegal. Press, media and court are controlled by the government and give only the ruling party's version.

- Popular approval of the _____ is necessary in a democracy.
 - (1) citizens (2) students
 - (3) politicians (4) rulers
- Which of these cannot be involved in a democracy?
 - (1) freedom of press
 - (2) expression in public
 - (3) protest wrong act of government
 - (4) suppress the opposition party
- Which of the following actions taken by Robert Mugabe should be protested?
 - (1) He gave freedom to press and media.
 - (2) He allowed fair practices in elections.
 - (3) He declared public protests as illegal.
 - (4) He ordered to the judges to give impartial judgement.

Assertion Reason Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 15 to 18) : Following questions consist of two statements, one labelled as the '**Assertion**' and the other as '**Reason**'. You are to examine these two statements carefully and select the answer to these items using the code given below.

Code :

- (1) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - (2) Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - (3) A is true but R is false
 - (4) A is false but R is true.
-
15. **Assertion :** Chinese famine of 1958-61 was the worst recorded famine in world history.
Reason : The existence of democracy in India made the Indian Government respond successfully to food scarcity.
16. **Assertion :** Recently, many powerful countries in the World, particularly the United States of America, have taken on the task of democracy promotion in the rest of the world.
Reason : Existing democracies should directly intervene in the non-democratic countries to establish democracy.
17. **Assertion :** Elections offer a choice and a fair opportunity to the people to change their current rules.
Reason : Saudi Arabia is the only muslim country where women get the right to vote.

18. **Assertion :** Pakistan under General Musharraf should not be called a democracy.

Reason : The power to take the final decision rests with army officials and General Musharraf.

Correct Definition Based MCQ

19. Which of the following is the correct definition of 'referendum'?
- (1) A direct vote in which the political parties are asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal.
 - (2) A direct vote in which the entire electorate is asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal.
 - (3) A direct vote in which the opposition is asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal.
 - (4) A direct vote in which the representatives of government are asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal.
20. Which of the following is the correct definition of a "trade union"?
- (1) An association of traders for the purpose of maintaining or improving the condition of their trade.
 - (2) An association of workers for the purpose of maintaining or improving the conditions of their employment.
 - (3) An association of politicians for the purpose of development of their party.
 - (4) An association of teachers for the purpose of growth of their school.

Hints & SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. (2)
2. (1)
3. (3)
4. (4) Criticism of the government is one of the vital features of democracy which leads to better decisions. Democracy is based on consultation and discussion, which reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions.
5. (2)
6. (3)
7. (4)
8. (3)
9. (2)
10. (1)
11. (4)
12. (3)
13. (3)
14. (4)
15. (3)
16. (4)
17. (3)
18. (2)
19. (1)
20. (1)
21. (2)
22. (3)
23. (2)
24. (4)
25. (3)
26. (3)
27. (3)
28. (3)
29. (1)
30. (4)
31. (3)
32. (4)
33. (4)
34. (3)
35. (4)
36. (3)
37. (1)
38. (4)
39. (2)
40. (4)
41. (1)
42. (4)
43. (4)
44. (1)
45. (2)
46. (4)
47. (1)
48. (4)
49. (3)
50. (1)
51. (4)
52. (4) The United States of America is financially more sound and stable than the U.K., Russia or China.
53. (4)
54. (1) Iraq was under Ba'ath Party led by Saddam Hussein.

Exercise 2

1. (2)
2. (4)
3. (1)
4. (1)

5. (3) Myanmar gained freedom from colonial rule in 1948 and became a democracy. But the democratic rule ended in 1962 due to a military coup. In 1990, elections were held for the first time after almost 30 years. The National League for Democracy, led by Aung San Suu Kyi won the election. But the military leaders of Myanmar refused to step down and did not recognise the election results. In 1990, Lech Walesa was elected the first President of Poland.
6. (1) In 2005, the new King of Nepal dismissed the elected government and took back political freedoms that people had won in the previous decade.
7. (3)
8. (2) They are US, Russia, UK, France and China.
9. (4)
10. (1)
11. (4)
12. (4)
13. (4) The ruling party should pay attention and consider the views of the opposition party.
14. (3)
15. (2) Economists think that if China had multi party elections, an opposition party and a press free to criticise the government, then so many people may not have died in the famine.
16. (1)
17. (3) In Saudi Arabia, women do not have the right to vote.
18. (1) In August 2002, President Musharraf issued a "Legal Framework Order" that amended the constitution of Pakistan; thereafter the elections were held in the national and state assemblies, but the final power rested with the military officers and General Musharraf himself.
19. (2)
20. (2)